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Shaping the Future

April 18, 2001

Chairman Michael K. Powell
Attn: Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Chairman Powell:

Re: ET Docket No. 00-258

I am writing to express our deep concern over the future of the Instructional Television Fixed Service (ITFS) spectrum. The ITFS spectrum has been targeted as a possible location for the development of 3G Cellular Service. I urge you to avoid relocation. As the FCC clearly noted in the Final Report released on March 30, 2001, the ITFS system is a constantly evolving system that could only be moved at the significant expense of the incumbent users. Additionally, relocation to higher frequencies would impinge on our ability to reach all of our school sites.

Our District has held the ITFS license since the 1960s. The system has been in constant operation all of these years, providing some 44 hours of direct programming to schools each week over each of the four ITFS channels. That's more than 170 hours per week of programs for students as well as professional development training for teachers and school staffs. Auctioning off these frequencies, or relocating them to a less desirable part of the electromagnetic spectrum, would have serious financial and educational consequences to our educational program.

We have approximately 5,000 classrooms in our school district and 95,000 students. All classrooms are wired to accept our ITFS programming. We have also used the system collaborative with the University of Louisville to provide training for our teachers.

It is evident to see the uses of this system in the day-to-day work in our classrooms. However, while 3G continues to threaten the future of the ITFS spectrum, it is in essence threatening quality education for many of America's children. I urge that as the Commission searches for a location for the development of 3G services that it not come at the expense of the students in our schools.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Stephen W. Daeschner
Superintendent

SD:akw

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